IDW

#3 • CVR RIA

STURGES
SHEARER

DOCTOR WHO

A Fairytale Life

Cover by Amy Mebberson

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM
00321
8 27714 00238 6

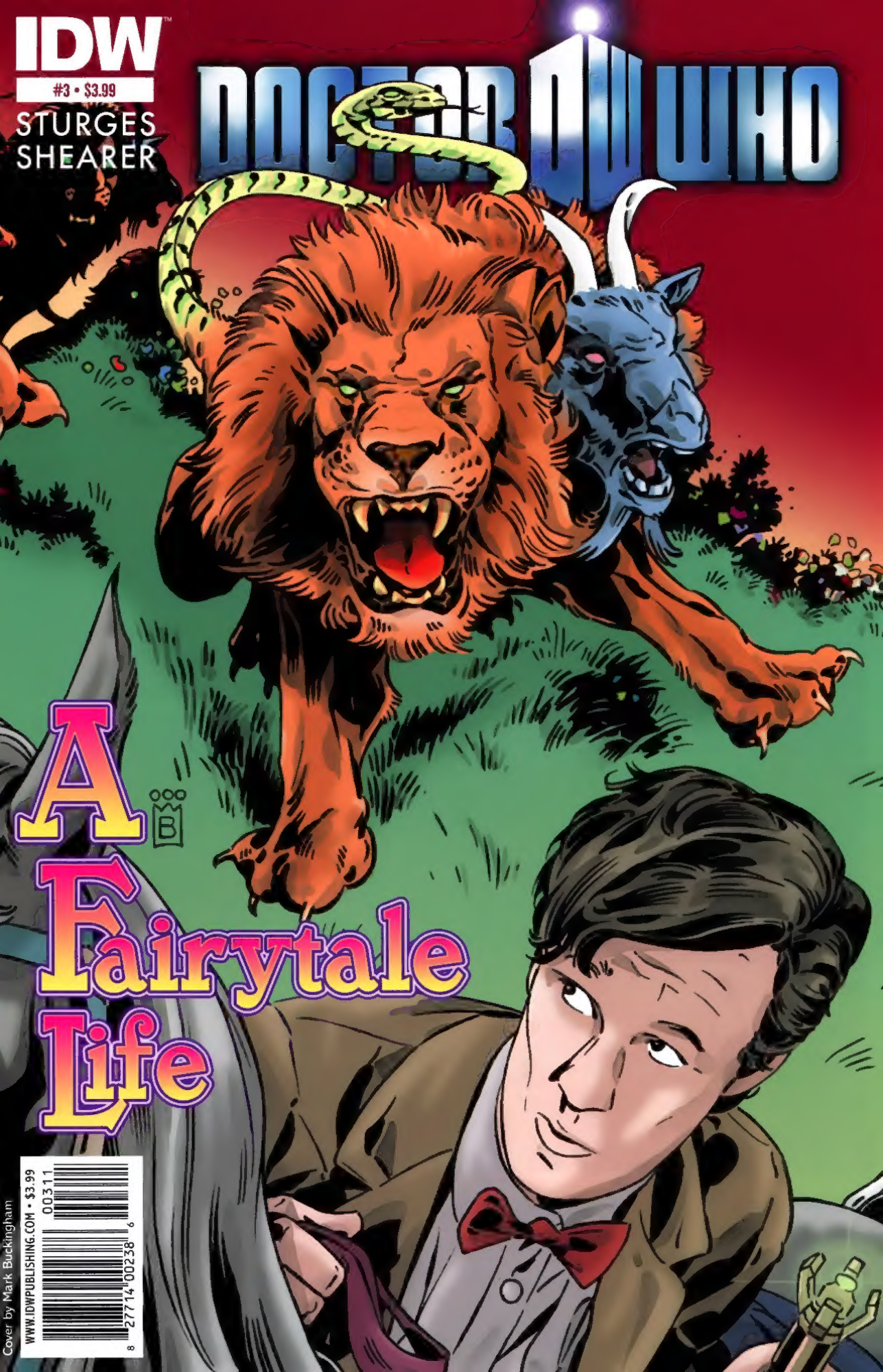
IDW

#3 • $3.99

STURGES
SHEARER

DOCTOR WHO

A Fairytale Life



WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM • $3.99

Cover by Mark Buckingham

IDW

#3 • RIB

STURGES
SHEARER

DOCTOR WHO

A Fairytale Life

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

Cover by Mark Buckingham

A FAIRYTALE LIFE

Part **3** of **4**

The story so far...

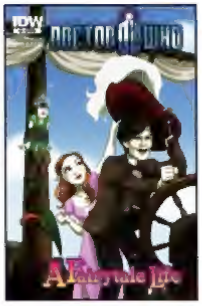
The Doctor and Amy have arrived on the holiday planet of Caligaris Epsilon Six, expecting a totally immersive fairytale experience. But the experience swiftly becomes a bit too real when they're chased by knights, when they lose the TARDIS, and when Amy falls ill and is abducted by a menacing flying monster known as a Serpentine! Taken to the so-called Dread Tower, she's strapped down by robots and told that there's no cure for her illness, and as a result... she's going to have to die.

Written by Matthew Sturges
Art by Brian Shearer
Colors by Rachelle Rosenberg
Lettering by Shawn Lee
Edited by Denton J. Tipton

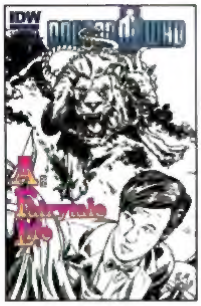
Cover Checklist:

Regular Cover
Art by Mark Buckingham
Colors by Phil Elliott

Cover RIA
Art by Amy Mebberson



Cover RIB
Art by Mark Buckingham



Special thanks to Gary Russell, David Turbitt, and Ed Casey for their invaluable assistance.

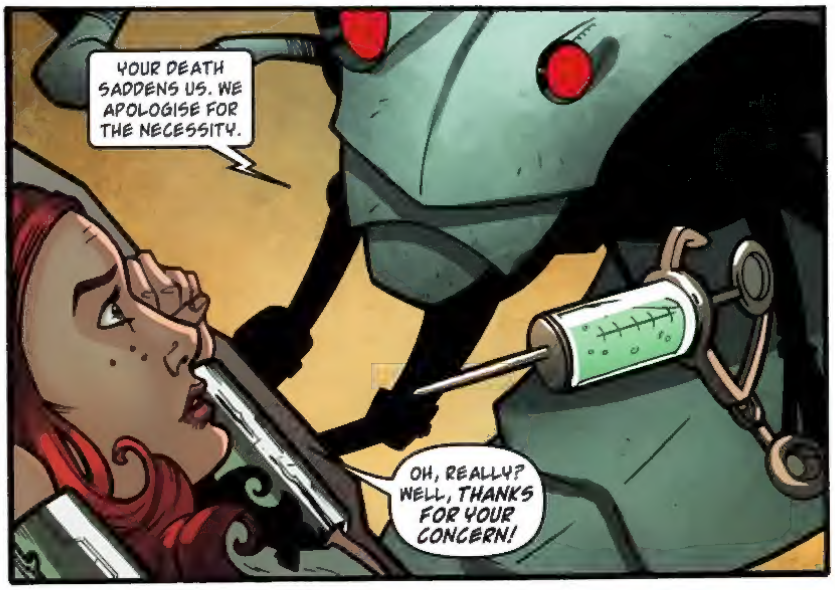
IDW™

Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher
Greg Goldstein, Chief Operating Officer
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Alan Payne, VP of Sales

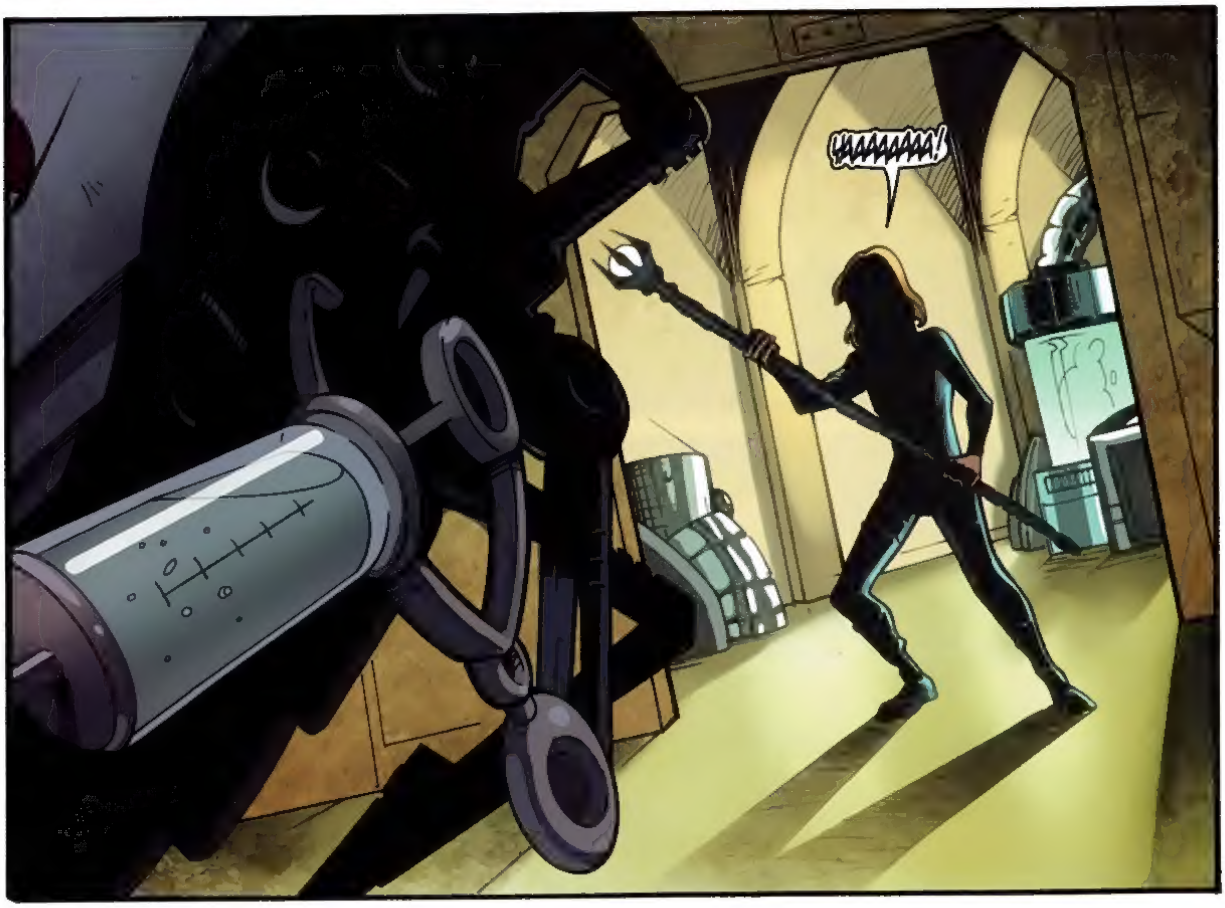
Become our fan on Facebook **facebook.com/idwpublishing**
Follow us on Twitter **@idwpublishing**
Check us out on YouTube **youtube.com/idwpublishing**
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

DOCTOR WHO: A FAIRYTALE LIFE #3. JUNE 2011. FIRST PRINTING. BBC, DOCTOR WHO (word marks, logos and devices) and TARDIS are trade marks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under license. BBC logo © BBC 1996. Doctor Who logo © BBC 2009. TARDIS image © BBC 1963. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego CA 92109. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

THE HOLIDAY WORLD OF CALIGARIS EPSILON SIX.
THE DREAD TOWER.
OI! LET ME GO!


YOUR DEATH SADDENS US. WE APOLOGISE FOR THE NECESSITY.
OH, REALLY? WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN!

I CAN DO THIS!
I CAN WORK THIS OUT!
SOMEHOW!


AAAAAAAA!

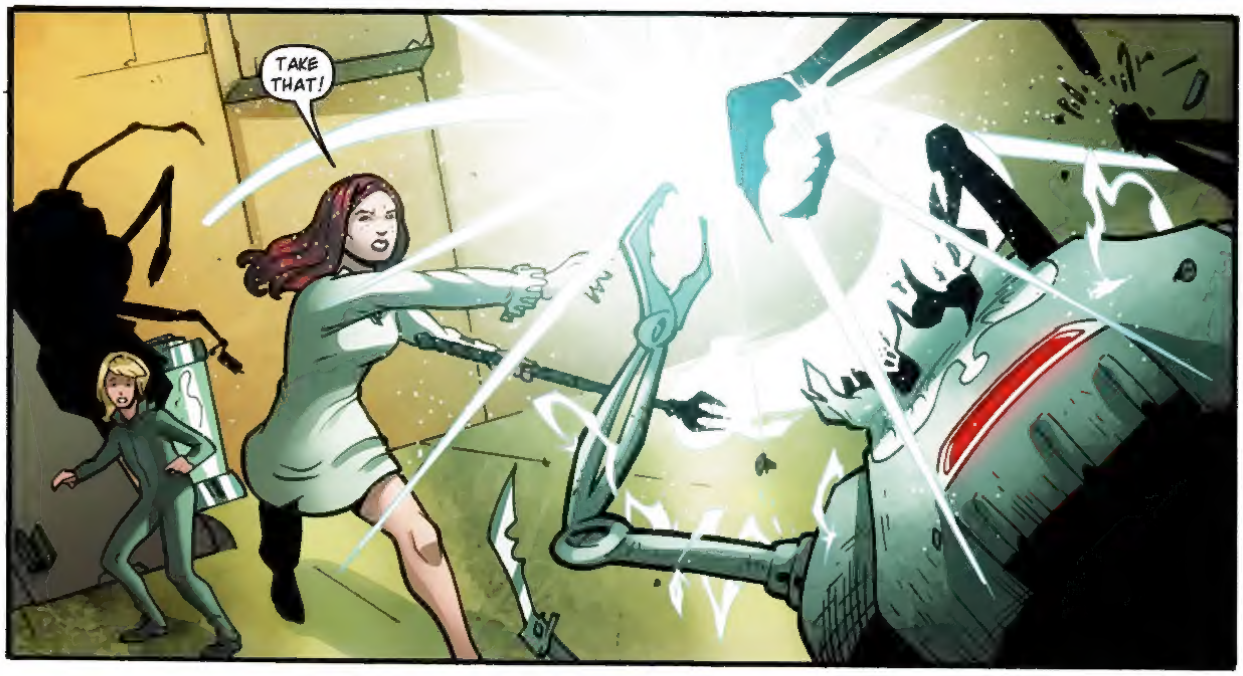
KZZZSH

CLICK

THAT WAS BRILLIANT, KID! JUST BRILLIANT!

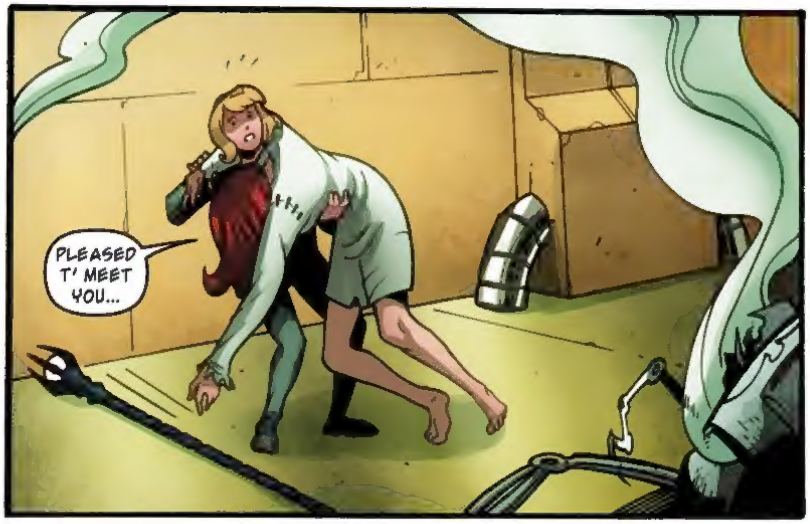
SEE? GIRL POWER! THAT'S WHAT I'M ON ABOUT!
MISS! MISS!
PLEASE REMAIN STILL. WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

OH, TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, EH? YOU WANT TO SEE SOME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, DO YOU?
KID. STAFF. NOW.


TAKE THAT!

HA! THAT'LL TEACH YOU, YOU ROBOT... BUG... THING!
->GLERT!<-

HELLO, LITTLE GIRL. MY NAME'S AMY. AMY POND.

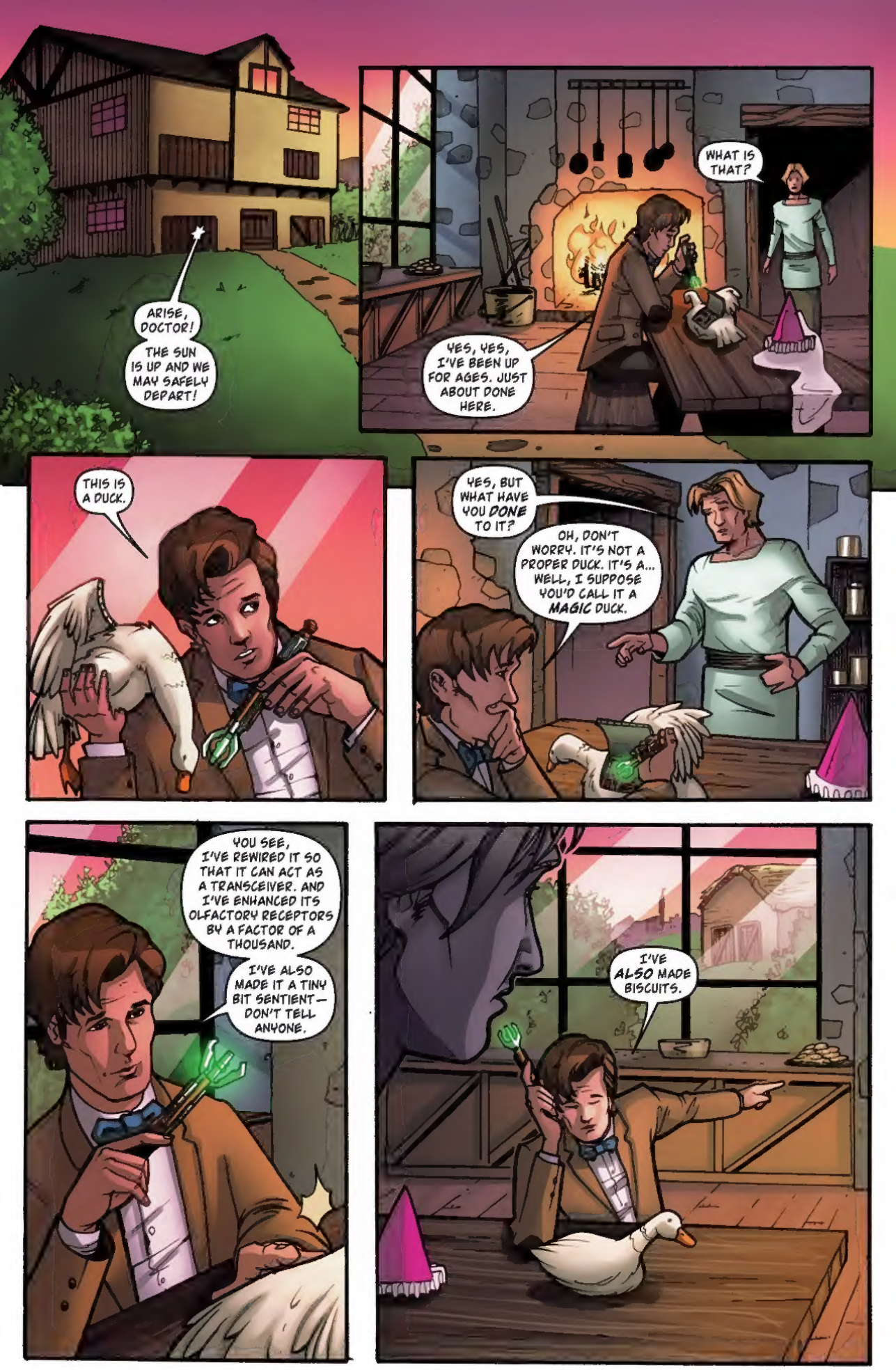

PLEASED T' MEET YOU...

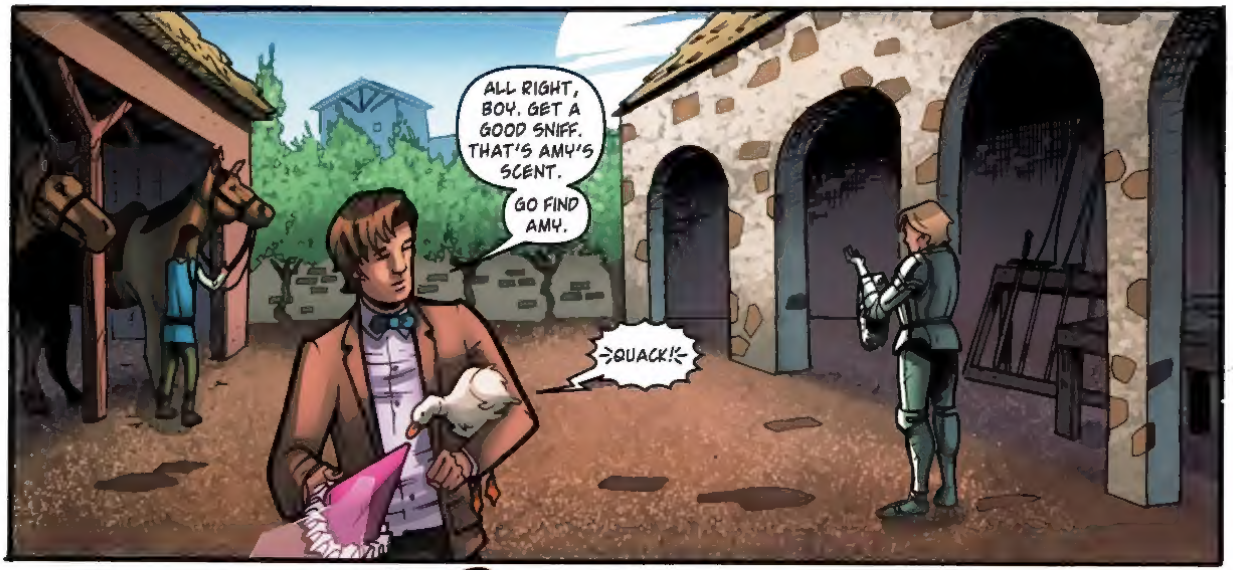
I HAVE NEVER SEEN A MAN KILLED IN SUCH A MANNER, SIRE. THERE IS DIRE MAGIC AT WORK HERE.
HE WAS ONE OF MY PEOPLE, GWYDION. ONE OF THOSE I AM MEANT TO PROTECT.
AS YOU SAY, SIRE.

HE WAS A GOOD MAN. WITH A BRILLIANT, INQUISITIVE MIND.
HE DID NOT DESERVE SUCH AN END.

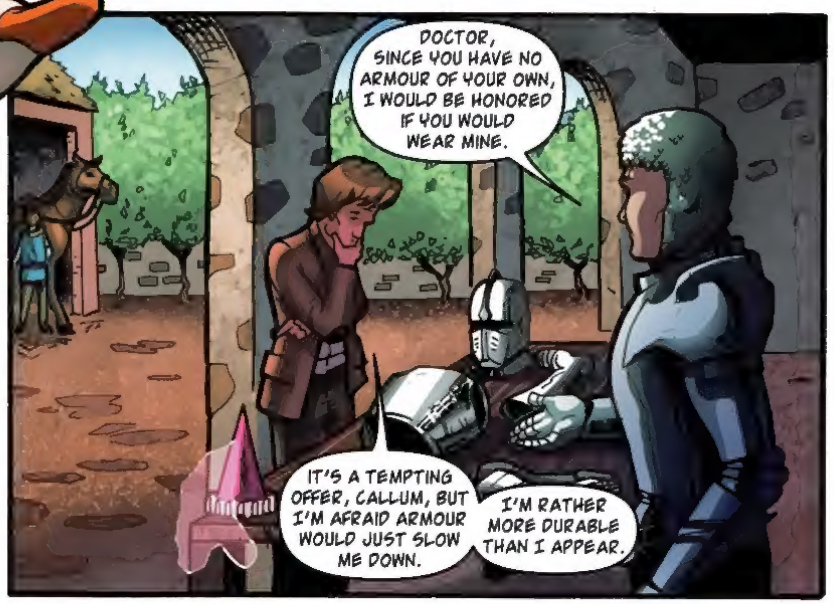
HE WAS ONE OF MY PEOPLE!

HAVE THE DOCTOR ARRESTED. HE WILL PAY FOR THIS.


ARISE, DOCTOR!
THE SUN IS UP AND WE MAY SAFELY DEPART!
YES, YES, I'VE BEEN UP FOR AGES. JUST ABOUT DONE HERE.
WHAT IS THAT?
THIS IS A DUCK.
YES, BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO IT?
OH, DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT A PROPER DUCK. IT'S A... WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU'D CALL IT A MAGIC DUCK.
YOU SEE, I'VE REWIRED IT SO THAT IT CAN ACT AS A TRANSCEIVER. AND I'VE ENHANCED ITS OLFACTORY RECEPTORS BY A FACTOR OF A THOUSAND.
I'VE ALSO MADE IT A TINY BIT SENTIENT— DON'T TELL ANYONE.
I'VE ALSO MADE BISCUITS.


ALL RIGHT, BOY. GET A GOOD SNIFF. THAT'S AMY'S SCENT.
GO FIND AMY.
>QUACK!<

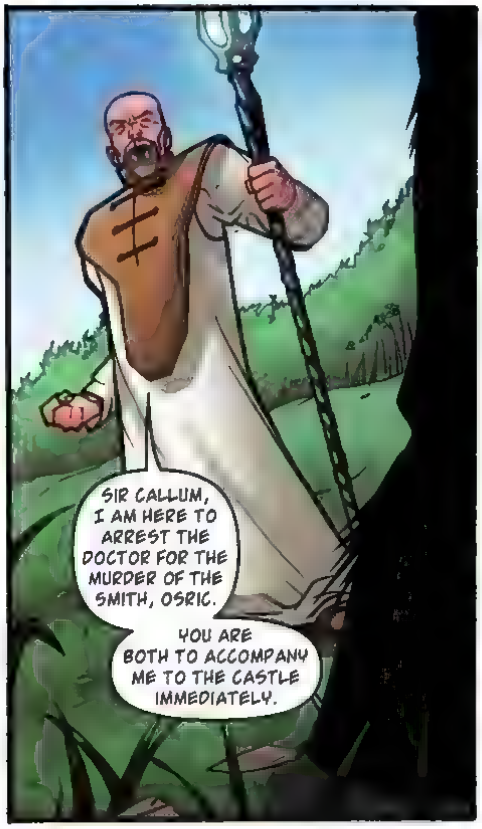
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!
AND NO MORE TALK OF MIGRATING! YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.


DOCTOR, SINCE YOU HAVE NO ARMOUR OF YOUR OWN, I WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD WEAR MINE.
IT'S A TEMPTING OFFER, CALLUM, BUT I'M AFRAID ARMOUR WOULD JUST SLOW ME DOWN.
I'M RATHER MORE DURABLE THAN I APPEAR.

DON'T TELL ME YOU WON'T CARRY A WEAPON, EITHER?
NO, I DON'T CARE FOR WEAPONS.
JUST THIS ONCE, HOWEVER... I'LL HAVE A LANCE.

LANCES ARE COOL.

FATHER, I'M SORRY I LET AURELIA GET TAKEN BY THE SERPENTINE. I'M SO SORRY.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, ELIM. IT IS MY JOB TO PROTECT HER, NOT YOURS.
AND PROTECT HER I SHALL.
LOOK AT US, CALLUM, EH? WE ARE MEN!
MEN, WITH LANCES AND HORSES AND PROVISIONS!
RIDING VALIANTLY OFF INTO THE UNKNOWN!
I WONDER, DOCTOR, IF YOU'RE TAKING ALL OF THIS ENTIRELY SERIOUSLY.
I'M THE DOCTOR—I TAKE EVERYTHING SERIOUSLY. ESPECIALLY NOT TAKING THINGS TOO SERIOUSLY.
I LOVE YOU, ELIM!
GOODBYE, FATHER.
WHEN I WAS A YOUNGER MAN I WAS QUITE A LOT MORE SERIOUS, OF COURSE, BUT I WAS MUCH OLDER THEN.
STOP THERE!

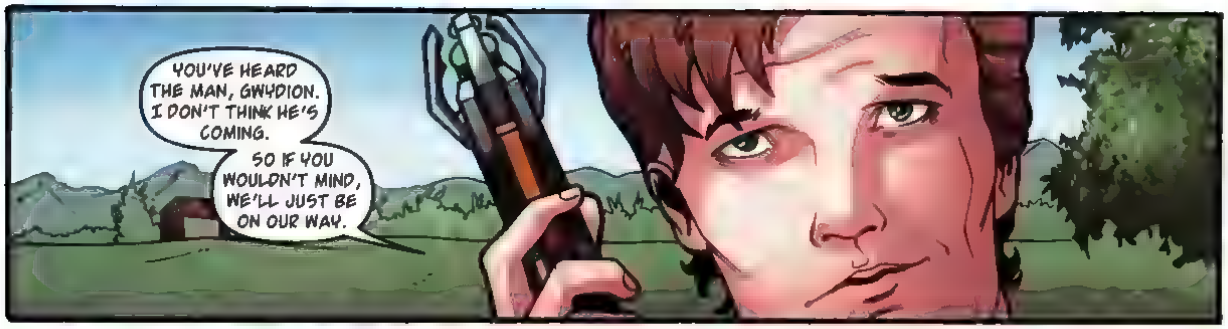

SIR CALLUM, I AM HERE TO ARREST THE DOCTOR FOR THE MURDER OF THE SMITH, OSRIC.
YOU ARE BOTH TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE CASTLE IMMEDIATELY.

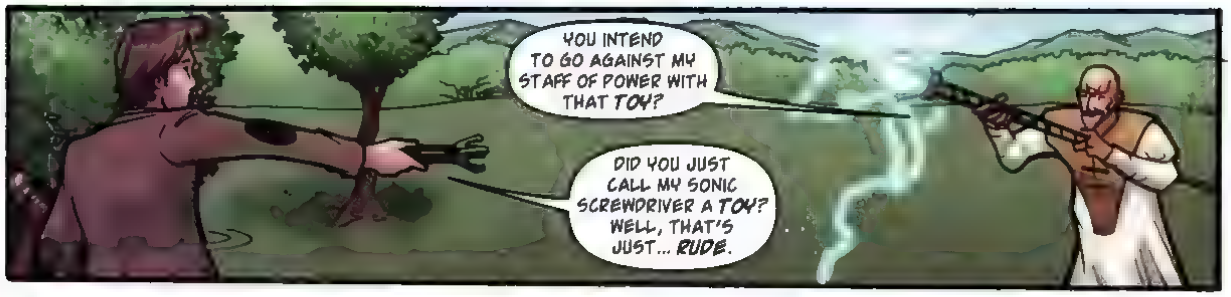
I AM SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE MAN'S DEATH, GWYDION.
BUT THE DOCTOR CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE—THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER EXPLANATION.
THAT IS FOR THE KING TO DECIDE, NOT I. I MUST INSIST THAT YOU BOTH COME WITH ME.

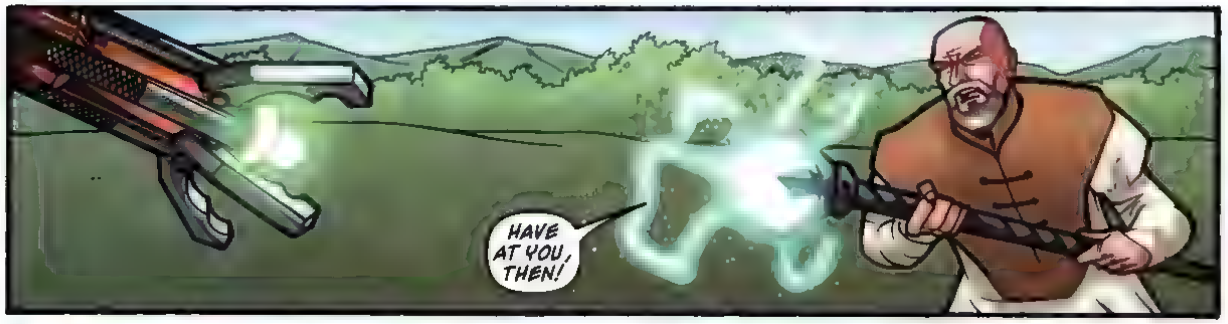
THE DOCTOR AND I ARE RIDING OUT, TO THE DREAD TOWER, TO RESCUE THOSE WE HAVE LOST.
I WILL PRESENT MYSELF FOR WHATEVER PUNISHMENT HIS MAJESTY WISHES ONCE I HAVE RETURNED. BUT NOT UNTIL THEN.

I CANNOT ALLOW THAT, SIR CALLUM. COME WITH ME. NOW.

I WILL NOT ABANDON MY DAUGHTER TO THE SERPENTINES AND WHATEVER DARK LORD RULES AT THE DREAD TOWER!
I WILL NOT!
WOULD YOU CARE FOR A BISCUIT?

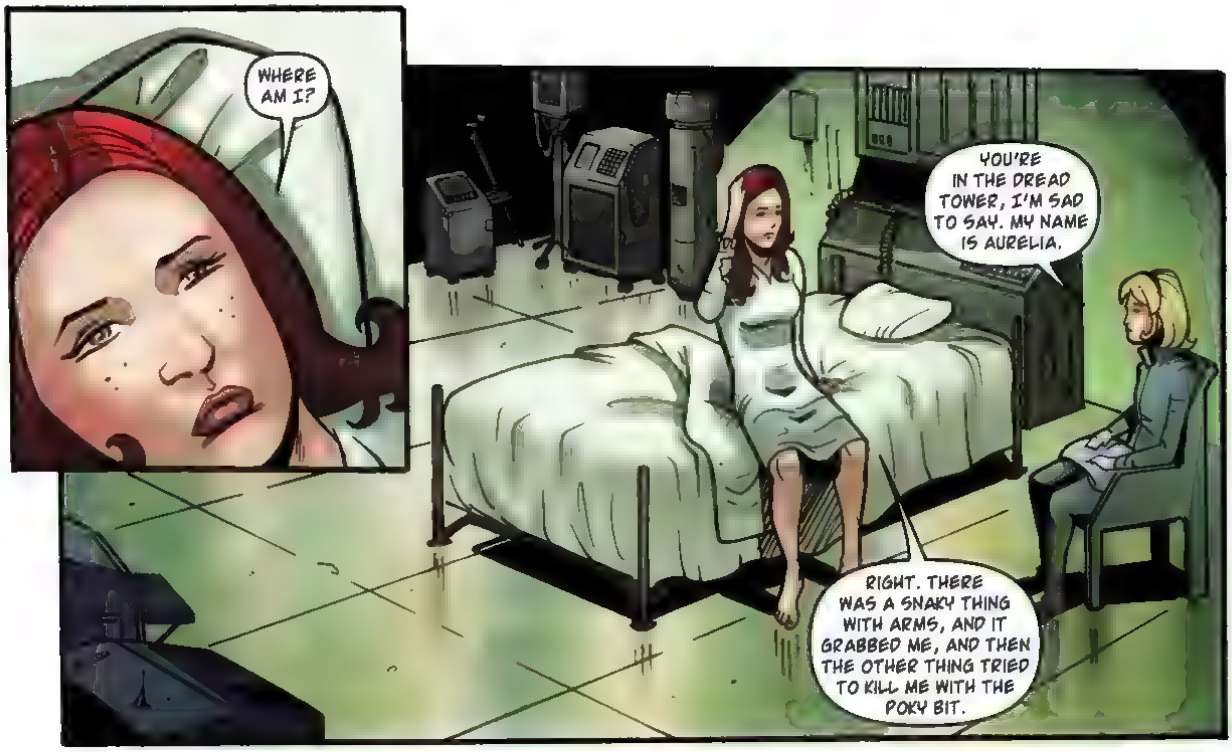

YOU'VE HEARD THE MAN, GWYDION. I DON'T THINK HE'S COMING.
SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, WE'LL JUST BE ON OUR WAY.


YOU INTEND TO GO AGAINST MY STAFF OF POWER WITH THAT TOY?
DID YOU JUST CALL MY SONIC SCREWDRIVER A TOY? WELL, THAT'S JUST... RUDE.


HAVE AT YOU, THEN!

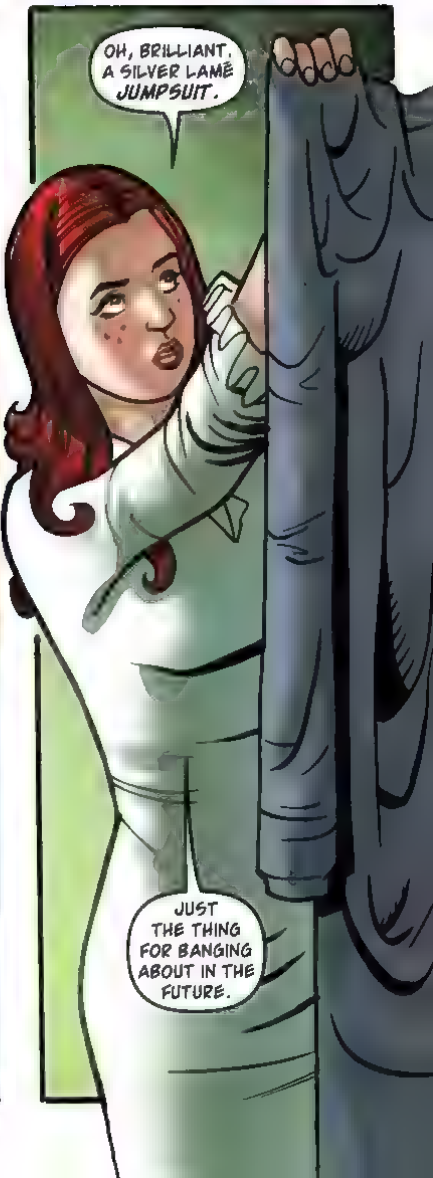
HYA!
PFFT

COME, DOCTOR. WE MUST FLY!
THIS TOY CAN DISABLE A CONTINUUM DESTABILISER AT FIFTY PACES. I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM DO THAT WITH HIS GREAT WIZARD STAFF...


WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE IN THE DREAD TOWER, I'M SAD TO SAY. MY NAME IS AURELIA.
RIGHT. THERE WAS A SNAKY THING WITH ARMS, AND IT GRABBED ME, AND THEN THE OTHER THING TRIED TO KILL ME WITH THE POKY BIT.

WAIT— AURELIA? SIR CALLUM'S DAUGHTER?
YOU'RE THE LITTLE GIRL WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
REALLY? YOU'RE HERE TO RESCUE ME?

THAT WAS A VERY BRAVE THING YOU DID BACK THERE, KID, WHACKING THAT ROBOT.
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME TO BE COURAGEOUS, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, MISS AMY.
HERE—YOU MAY WEAR THIS.


OH, BRILLIANT. A SILVER LAMÉ JUMPSUIT.
JUST THE THING FOR BANGING ABOUT IN THE FUTURE.

SOON.
WHOA.
HELLO, YOUNG LADY. MY NAME IS ORA.
WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWER.
I AM SAD TO INFORM YOU THAT YOU ARE ONE OF US NOW.

HAVE I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION, DOCTOR? TO BRAZENLY DEFY MY KING—IT'S UNTHINKABLE! IT'S MADNESS!
IT TAKES A VERY STRONG PERSON TO DEFY AUTHORITY FOR THE SAKE OF SOMEONE HE LOVES.
IF THAT'S NOT RIGHT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.

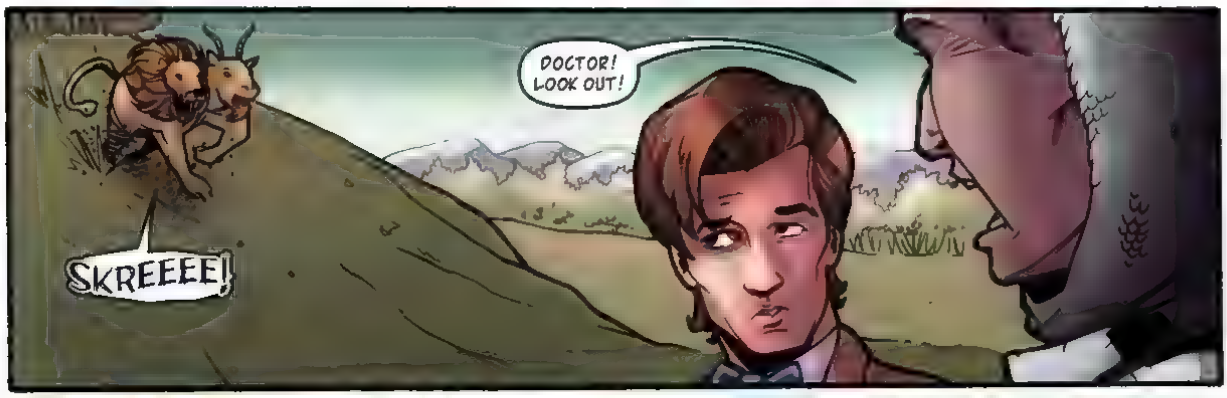
THE KING WILL NOT SEE IT THAT WAY.
LISTEN, CALLUM, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND.
WE'RE RIDING AWAY FROM THE THINGS YOU KNOW. WE'RE LEAVING TERRA FIRMA—YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE ON VERY UNSTEADY GROUND.

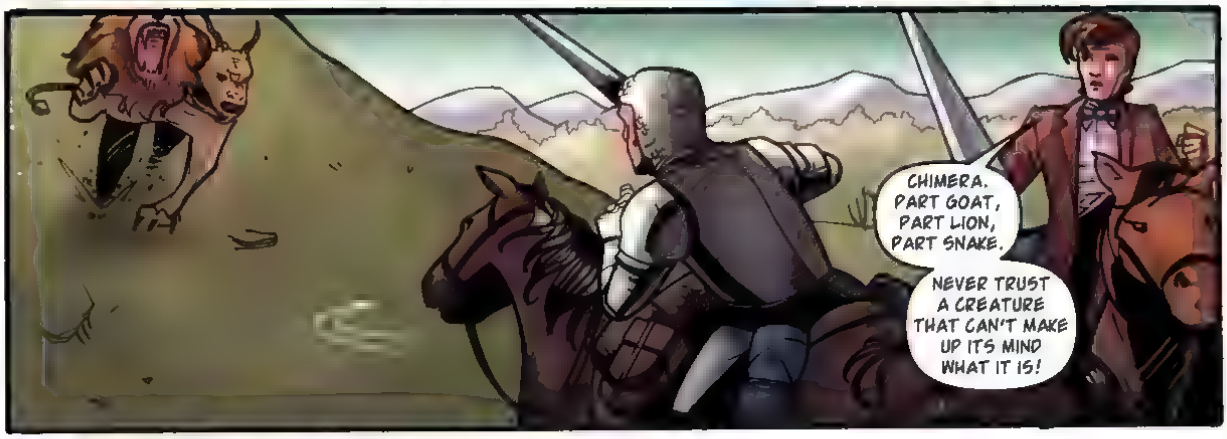
ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY COURAGE, DOCTOR?
NO, NO, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I FEAR YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SOME THINGS ON THIS JOURNEY—
—THINGS THAT MAY MAKE YOU QUESTION... OTHER THINGS.

I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, DOCTOR.
LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, CALLUM. YOU AND YOUR MEN, YOUR FELLOW KNIGHTS...
...YOU TRAIN FOR COMBAT, OBVIOUSLY. I MEAN, YOU NEARLY KILLED ME YESTERDAY.

SO, WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU TRAINING TO FIGHT AGAINST? THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE.
YOURS IS THE ONLY CITY ON THE ENTIRE PLANET.
THE KING ASSURES US THAT THERE COULD BE THREATS AT ANY TIME. THINGS WERE DIFFERENT MANY YEARS AGO, WHEN HE FIRST BECAME KING.

REALLY? AND HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT?
BEFORE MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S TIME, CERTAINLY. BUT THE KING IS LIKE A FATHER TO US ALL.


DOCTOR! LOOK OUT!
SKREEEE!


CHIMERA. PART GOAT, PART LION, PART SNAKE.
NEVER TRUST A CREATURE THAT CAN'T MAKE UP ITS MIND WHAT IT IS!

NOW WE FIGHT!
SKREEEE!

SKREEEE!
COME THEN, BEAST!
SKREEEE!
CALLUM?
NEW PLAN! NEW PLAN!
SKREEEE!

THESE AREN'T REAL HORSES WE'RE RIDING. THEY'RE MACHINES. AND LIKE ANY MACHINE...

...THEY CAN BE SUPERCHARGED!

GERONIMO!

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT OF HERE, ORA. THERE'S GOT TO!
SOME HAVE TRIED, BUT ALL HAVE FAILED. THE DARK MAGIC THAT KEEPS US HERE IS INSURMOUNTABLE.
THERE ARE DANGERS BEYOND ANYONE'S KEN LURKING IN THIS TOWER.

WELL NOW, HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE. OUTSIDE THESE WALLS IS MY... PARTNER. WHO'S GOING TO BE ALONG SHORTLY.
HE'S CALLED THE DOCTOR AND HE'S BRILLIANT, AND WITH HIS ASSISTANCE, I'M GOING TO GET US ALL OUT OF HERE.

AND IS THIS DOCTOR A WIZARD? A KNIGHT?
NOT EXACTLY. HE'S MORE OF A—

HELLO, AMY!

HELLO... DOCTOR.

AMY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
STILL DYING FROM THE FATAL DISEASE, BUT OTHER THAN THAT, NOT BAD.

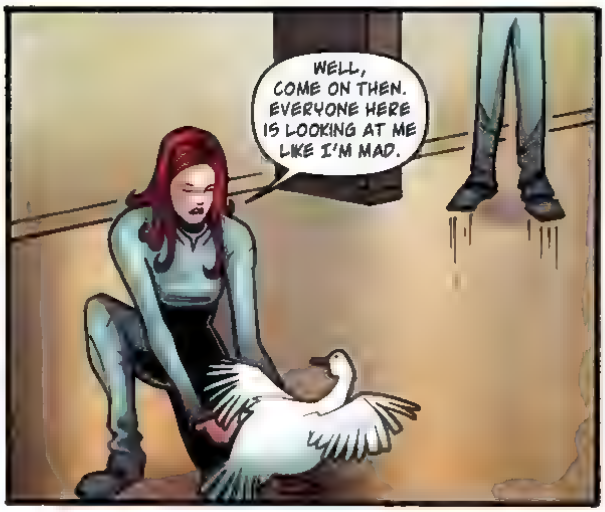
DOCTOR? WHO ARE YOU SPEAKING TO?
OH, IT'S AMY. I'M TALKING TO HER VIA THE DUCK.

DON'T WORRY, AMY. WE'LL GET YOU SORTED, I PROMISE.
NOW TELL ME. WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT SORT OF A PLACE DID THAT THING TAKE YOU TO?

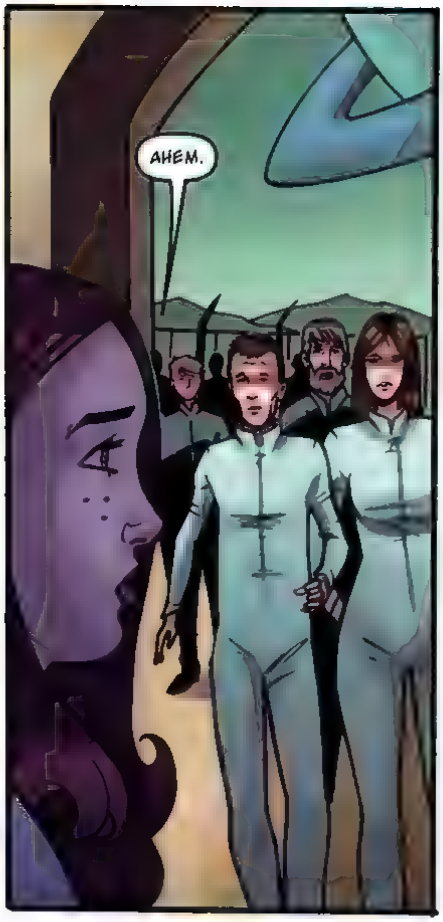
HONESTLY, IT'S A SORT OF ... HOSPITAL. EXCEPT THERE ARE LOADS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN IT
AND ROBOTS.

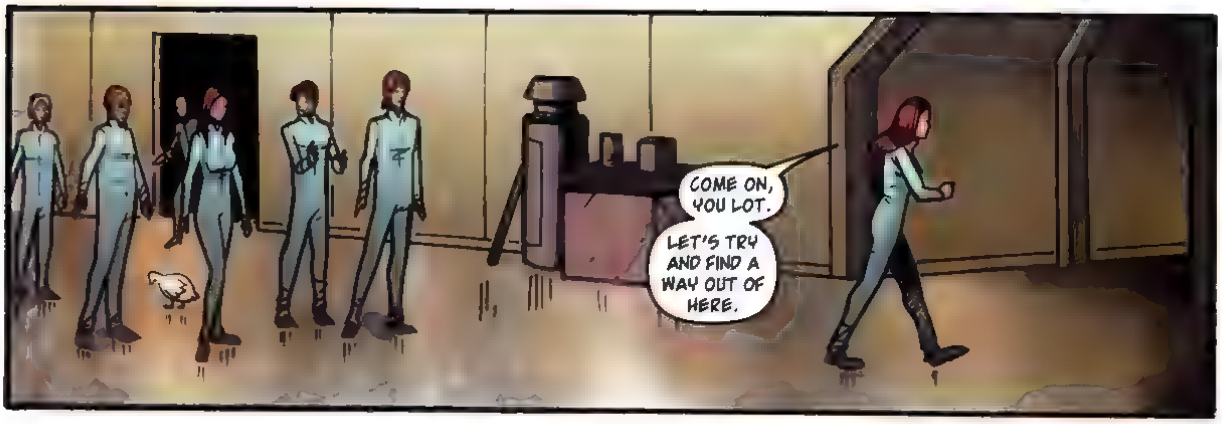
HOLD ON, ALL RIGHT? I'M ON MY WAY.
RIDING ON A HORSE, WITH A LANCE AND EVERYTHING, LIKE A PROPER KNIGHT.

IT'S ABOUT TIME. I'M STILL NOT A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, THOUGH.
OH, I DON'T KNOW, AMY. THE EVIDENCE IS STARTING TO WEIGH AGAINST YOU IN THAT REGARD.


WELL, COME ON THEN. EVERYONE HERE IS LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M MAD.

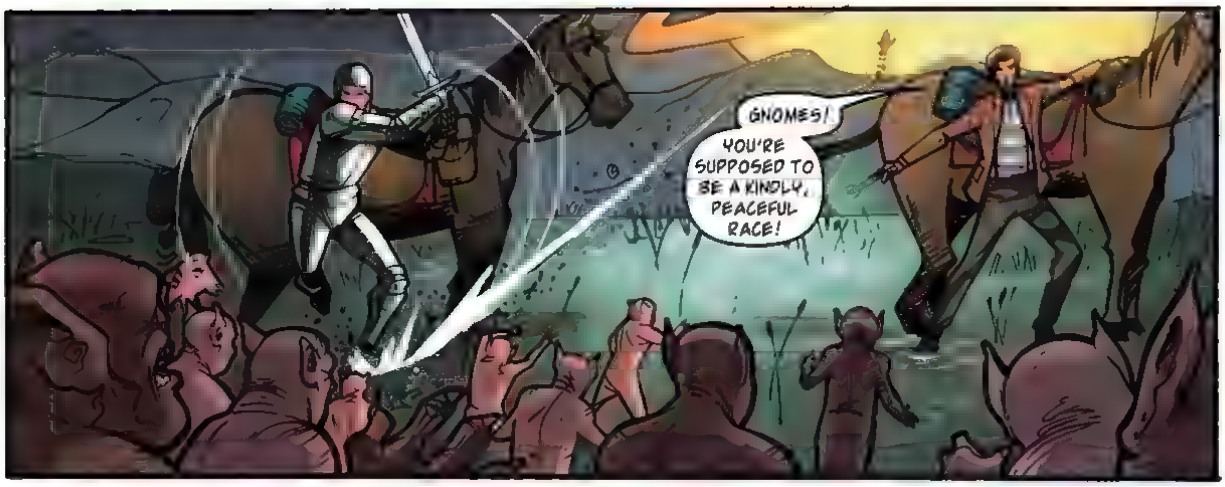
RIGHT THEN. MUST DASH—WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY A... CREATURE OF SOME KIND.
YOUR RESCUE MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR A MOMENT—
DON'T NEED TO BE RESCUED!


AHEM.


COME ON, YOU LOT.
LET'S TRY AND FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE.

WYVERNS!

UNICORNS!
GO FOR THE HORN! IT'S THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWER!


GNOMES!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A KINDLY, PEACEFUL RACE!

DOCTOR! LOOK OUT!
GOBLINS!

DOCTOR! WE'VE MADE IT! THE OBJECT OF OUR QUEST!
YES, THAT'S TRUE. BUT I HAVE A SUSPICION YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT YOU SEE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT GATE.
I FEAR THE ILLUSIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THIS WORLD ARE ABOUT TO BE SHATTERED.
I ADMIT THAT I HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOU AT FIRST, DOCTOR, BUT YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF A MAN OF COURAGE ON THIS JOURNEY.
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR ME, I'M AFRAID.
I WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL YOU FRIEND, DOCTOR.
AND WHEN WE RETURN TRIUMPHANTLY TO THE CITY, I SHALL REQUEST THAT YOU BE KNIGHTED.
OH, I'M ALREADY A KNIGHT. TWICE OVER, IN FACT.
ONCE BY VICTORIA AND ONCE AGAIN BY ELIZABETH THE FIRST.
OF COURSE, WITH ELIZABETH, IT WAS GRANTED FOR MORE... INTIMATE REASONS.
DOCTOR! THE GATE OPENS!
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

RRRWARRRRR!

NO. NO!
AHH. THAT EXPLAINS A FEW THINGS.
HELLO, SIR CALLUM.
HELLO... DOCTOR.
WELCOME TO THE DREAD TOWER.

WELL, HELLO, YOUR MAJESTY. LOVELY DRAGON YOU'VE GOT THERE.
I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT IT. THAT IS ONE SCARY DRAGON.

SIRE, WHAT IS GOING ON? HOW ARE YOU HERE?
I AM SORRY, CALLUM. MORE SORRY THAN YOU KNOW.
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I COULD TO PROTECT YOU. BUT THE DOCTOR HAS FORCED MY HAND.

UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT I DO NOW, I DO FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT MONTH: THE CONCLUSION!
A Fairytale Life